The Bible Story in the Bible Words

In the Land of Kings and Prophets

ELIJAH AT GATES OF ZAREPHATH
MEGIDDO
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
JABNEH
ASHDOD
DOTHAN
HOST LEAD AWAY BY ELISHA
GATH
VALLEY OF ZEPHATH
ASA PRAYS BEFORE HIS ARMIES
EGYPT
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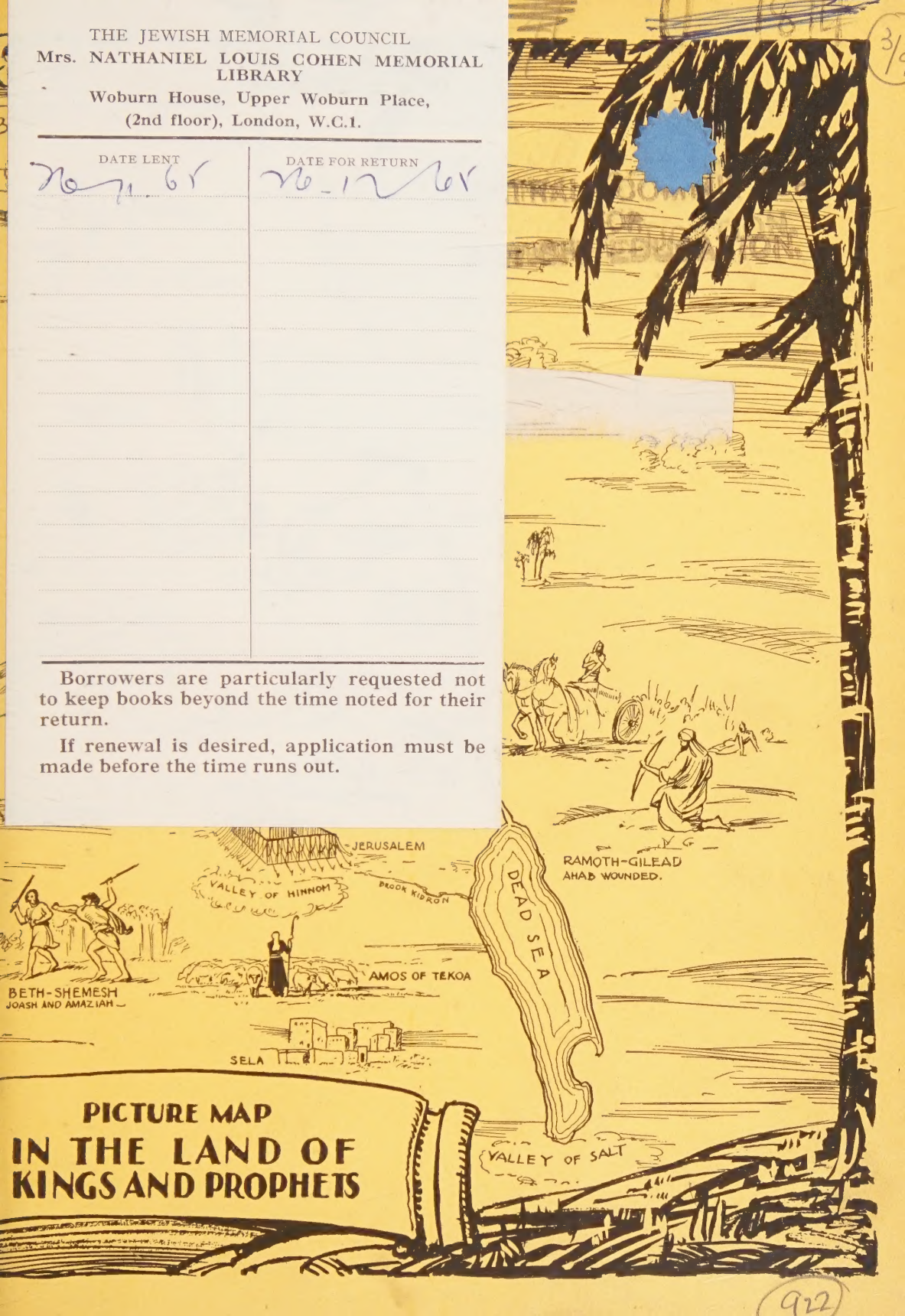

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In the Land of Kings and Prophets

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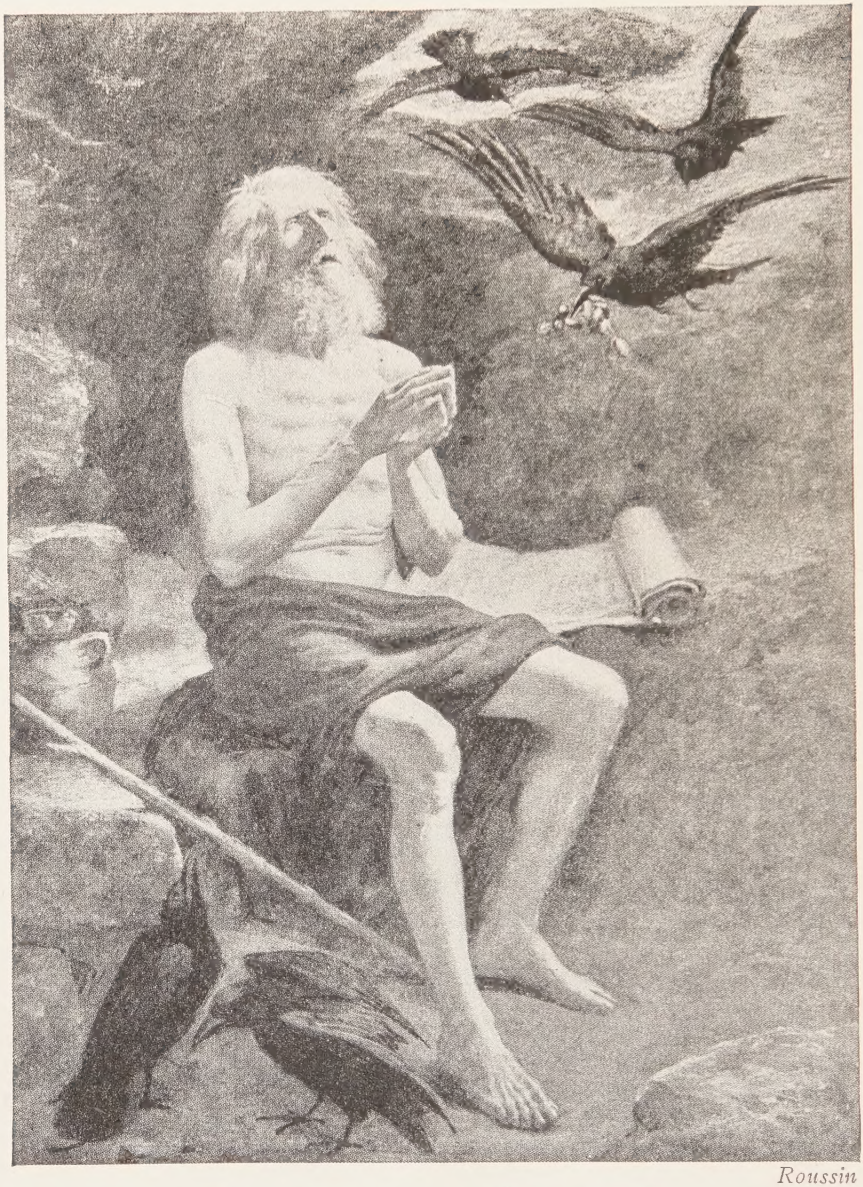

Roussin

The ravens brought Elijah bread.

THE BIBLE STORY IN THE BIBLE WORDS

BOOK FOUR

IN THE LAND OF KINGS AND PROPHETS

Selected and Arranged by
RABBI JACOB D. SCHWARZ

CINCINNATI
DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION OF THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THIS book is published from a special fund for the publication of text-books for Jewish religious schools, donated by Mr. Joseph Schonthal, of Columbus, Ohio, to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in memory of his beloved wife, Hermine Schonthal, of blessed memory, a true "mother in Israel," who during her lifetime was devoted to all good works. The fund is self-perpetuating and is styled

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TO
THE MEMORY
OF MY MOTHER

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE Bible Reader "In the Land of Kings and Prophets" is the fourth in the series "The Bible Story in the Bible Words," which the Department of Synagogue and School Extension is preparing for children in Jewish schools. With this Reader, which continues the story to the destruction of the first Temple, there is placed at the disposal of Jewish teachers a series of Bible Readers covering the period of Jewish history from the beginning to 586 before the Common Era. These Readers can be used either as texts in the teaching of Bible, or as source readers in the teaching of biblical history.

As in the previous Reader, Rabbi Schwarz has selected and arranged a text which will prove useful both to pupils and teachers in Jewish religious schools. His selections were carefully made, and the stories were so organized as to introduce appropriate passages from the prophets in the course of the narrative. Thus, the story of Jeroboam II includes the appearance of Amos, and characteristic utterances are introduced from that prophet's writings. Similarly, selections from Isaiah and Jeremiah are woven into the stories in which these prophets appear.

Careful judgment was also exercised in the omissions. Students of biblical history will recall the terrors which accompanied the memorizing of the names of kings who disposed of

each other in rapid succession. In this Reader unnecessary names have been omitted, a definite effort being made to stress those stories which are of special interest to children and to give emphasis to some of the prophets of the period.

Although as a rule the Bible translation of the Jewish Publication Society has been followed, deviations have been made, when deemed advisable, with a view to simplifying the text in accordance with the needs of children. In the matter of the style and physical appearance of the book, the needs of children were again given careful consideration.

May we express the hope that rabbis and teachers will welcome this newcomer in our series as heartily as they have those which preceded it? As ever, we shall be grateful for suggestions and criticisms leading to improvements in future editions.

EMANUEL GAMORAN

The selections contained in this Reader are taken from the following books: First and Second Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Second Chronicles.

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THE END OF SOLOMON'S REIGN

KING Solomon had many foreign wives, besides the daughter of Pharaoh, namely, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Zidonians, and Hittites; of the nations concerning which the Lord said to the children of Israel, "Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Unto these did Solomon cleave, and when he was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; so that his heart was not whole with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went astray after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom, the god of the Ammonites. And he built a high place for the god of Moab, and for the god of the children of Ammon. Thus he did for all his foreign wives, who sacrificed to their gods.

Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Because thou hast done this, and hast not kept My covenant

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Ahijah said to Jeroboam, "Take for thyself ten pieces."

and My statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely tear the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Yet in thy days I will not do it, for the sake of thy father David; but from the hand of thy son I will tear it. Yet all the kingdom I will not tear away; but I will give one tribe to thy son, for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

Now Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, lifted up his hand against the king. Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor. When Solomon built Millo, seeing that the young man was industrious, he put him in charge of all the labors of the house of Joseph.

It came to pass at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way. Ahijah had clad himself in a new garment; and the two were alone in the field.

Now Ahijah took hold of his new garment, and tore it in twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for thyself ten pieces; for thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: because they have forsaken Me, and have not walked in My ways, to do what is right in My sight, and to keep My statutes, as did David his father.

" 'Yet I will not take the whole kingdom from him; but I will give one tribe to his son, for the sake of My servant David. And I will take thee, and thou shalt be king over Israel. And if thou wilt hearken to all that I command thee, and wilt walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, I will be with thee, and will give Israel to thee.' "

Thereupon Solomon sought to put Jeroboam to death. But Jeroboam arose, and fled to Shishak king of Egypt, and remained in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Now the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

—First Kings, Chapter 11.

THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

WHEN Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard that Solomon was dead, he returned from Egypt. Rehoboam went to Shechem; for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

Now Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Thy father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore make thou lighter the hard service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, and we will serve thee."

Thereupon Rehoboam said to them, "Go away for three days, and then return to me." So the people went away.

Then king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, "What do you counsel me to answer this people?" And they spoke to him, saying, "If thou wilt be a servant to this people today, and wilt serve them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever."

But he forsook the counsel of the old men, and

took counsel with the young men that had grown up with him, that stood before him. He said to them, "What do you counsel that we should answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Make lighter the yoke which thy father put upon us?' "

Thereupon the young men that had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus shalt thou say to this people that spoke to thee, saying, 'Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter for us'; thus shalt thou speak to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. My father burdened you with a heavy yoke: I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips: I will chastise you with scorpions.' "

So when Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the counsel which the old men had given him.

He spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, and I will chastise you with scorpions."

So the king hearkened not to the people; for it was a thing brought about by the Lord, that He might establish His word, which He had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

"My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke."

Now when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not to them, the people answered the king, saying, "What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse! To your tents, O Israel! Now see to thine own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents. But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, over them Rehoboam reigned.

Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the levy; and all Israel stoned him to death. Thereupon Rehoboam made speed to mount his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel rebelled against the house of David.

Then the people sent and called Jeroboam, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. And Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill-country of Ephraim, and dwelt therein.

Now Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now will the kingdom return to the house of David. If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then will the heart of this people turn back to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Thereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "Ye have gone up long enough to Jerusalem. Behold thy gods, O Israel, who brought thee up out of the land of

Egypt!" And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other in Dan. And the people went there to worship.

—First Kings, Chapter 12;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 10.

WAR BETWEEN JUDAH AND ISRAEL

NOW Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there.

Now Judah did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They built themselves high places, and pillars, and Asherim on every high hill, and under every leafy tree; they did in accordance with all the abominations of the nations which the Lord drove out before the children of Israel.

Now it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house. He also took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made; and king Rehoboam made shields of brass in their stead. And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

Now when Rehoboam slept with his fathers, Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa the son of Abijam began to reign over Judah; and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. And Asa did what was good and right in the sight of the Lord his God.

He took away the strange altars, and the high places, and broke down the pillars, and hewed down the Asherim. And Maachah his mother he removed from being queen, because she had made an image. And Asa cut down her image, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.

Now Zerach the Ethiopian went forth against king Asa with an army of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and he came to Mareshah.

Then Asa went forth to meet him; and they set themselves in battle array in the valley of Zephath at Mareshah. And Asa cried to the Lord his God, and said, "Lord, there is none beside Thee to help, whether it be the mighty or him that hath no strength. Help us, O Lord our God; for on Thee we rely, and in Thy name we have come against this multitude. Thou art the Lord our God; let not man prevail against Thee."

Thereupon the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them

to Gerar; and they carried away very much booty. Thereupon they returned to Jerusalem.

Then the spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded; and he went forth to meet Asa, and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin! The Lord is with you, while ye are with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found by you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you. Be ye strong, and let not your hands be slack, for your work shall be rewarded."

Thereupon king Asa brought into the house of God the things that his father had hallowed, and that he himself had hallowed—silver, and gold, and vessels. And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin at Jerusalem. And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul. And they swore to the Lord with a loud voice, and with joyful shouting, and with trumpets.

Now there was war between Asa and Baasa king of Israel all their days. And Baasa king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, so as not to suffer anyone to go forth or come in to Asa king of Judah.

Then Asa took all the silver and gold that were left in the treasuries of the house of the Lord, and also the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hands of his servants. And Asa sent

them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, "There is a league between me and thee, between my father and thy father. Behold, I have sent thee a present of silver and gold. Go, break thy league with Baasa king of Israel, that he may depart from me."

So Ben-hadad hearkened to king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, and all the land of Naphtali. And it came to pass, when Baasa heard of it, that he left off building Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah. Then king Asa and all Judah carried away the stones of Ramah, and its timber, wherewith Baasa had built it; and king Asa built therewith Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

Now when Asa slept with his fathers, Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. He was thirty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord.

Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in Jehoshaphat's hand; and he had riches and honor in abundance. And Jehoshaphat made peace with

Israel, and allied himself by marriage with Ahab king of Israel.

Now in the third year of his reign, he sent his princes, and priests and Levites with them, to teach in the cities of Judah. They had the book of the Law of the Lord with them; and they went about through all the cities of Judah, and taught among the people. And Jehoshaphat set judges in the land, throughout the fortified cities of Judah. And he said to the judges, "Consider what ye do: not for man do ye judge, but for the Lord, who is with you in giving judgment."

— First Kings, Chapters 14, 15, 22;
Second Chronicles, Chapters 14, 15, 17., 19.

AHAB AND ELIJAH

IN the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel; and he reigned twelve years. He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built a city on the hill, and called its name Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill. When Omri slept with his fathers, Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel; and he reigned in Samaria twenty-two years. And Ahab did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

He took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he set up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

Now Elijah the Tishbite said to Ahab, "As the

Lord, the God of Israel, liveth, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain in these years, except according to my word."

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Get thee hence, and turn eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith. And thou shalt drink from the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there."

So he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, according to the word of the Lord. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain thee."

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her, and said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

As she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thy hand." And she said, "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have only a handful of meal in the jar, and a little oil in the cruse; and, behold, I am gathering

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Elijah brought the child down, and delivered him to his mother.

sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

Then Elijah said to her, "Fear not: go and do as thou hast said. But first make a little cake thereof for me, and bring it out to me; and afterwards prepare for thyself and thy son. For thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not be spent, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the land.'"

Thereupon she went and did according to the word of Elijah; and she, and he, and her household, had food for many days. The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruise of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke through Elijah.

Now it came to pass after these things, that the woman's son fell sick; and his sickness was so severe, that there was no breath left in him.

Then the woman said to Elijah, "What have I to do with thee, O man of God? Art thou come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" And he said to her, "Give me thy son". And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

Thereupon he cried to the Lord, and said, "O Lord my God, hast thou brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" And he

stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, and said, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let the soul of this child return within him." And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the child's soul returned within him, and he revived.

Then Elijah took the child, and brought him down, and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth!" Thereupon the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

—First Kings, Chapters 16, 17.

ELIJAH AT MOUNT CARMEL

NOW in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go, show thyself to Ahab; and I will send rain upon the land." And Elijah went to show himself to Ahab.

Now the famine was severe in Samaria; and Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of his household. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. And it came to pass, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets, and hid them fifty each in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land, to all the springs of water, and to all the brooks; perchance we may find grass and save the horses and mules, and not lose all the cattle."

So they divided the land between them: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

Now as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah knew him, and fell on his

face, and said, "Is it thou, my lord Elijah?" And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell thy lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.' "

Then Obadiah said, "Wherein have I sinned, that thou wouldst deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? As the Lord thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee. And when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they found thee not. And now thou sayest, 'Go, tell thy lord: Behold, Elijah is here.'

"Now it will come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the spirit of the Lord will carry thee whither I know not. And so, when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he will slay me.

"But I thy servant have feared the Lord from my youth. Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord: how I hid a hundred of the Lord's prophets, fifty each in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now thou sayest, 'Go, tell thy lord: Behold, Elijah is here'; and he will slay me."

Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today."

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is it thou, thou troubler of

Israel?" And Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou thyself hast followed the Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of the Asherah, that eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent to all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. Then Elijah came near to all the people, and said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I alone, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty.

"Let them therefore give us two bullocks. And let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, without setting fire to it. And I will prepare the other bullock, and lay it on the wood, without setting fire to it. And call ye on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God." And all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose ye one bullock for yourselves, and prepare it first;

for ye are many; and call on the name of your god, without setting fire to it."

So they took the bullock, and prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they danced about the altar.

Now it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god: either he is musing, or he hath gone aside, or he is on a journey; or perchance he sleepeth, and must be awakened."

So they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with swords and lances, till the blood gushed out upon them. And when midday was past, they continued to prophesy until the time of the evening offering. But there was no voice, nor any that answered, nor any that paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. And he took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel; and he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord.

Thereupon he made a trench about the altar, as large as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid it on the wood; and he said, "Fill

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The fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering.

four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt offering, and on the wood." And he said, "Do it the second time"; and they did it the second time. And he said, "Do it the third time"; and they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

Now it came to pass at the time of the evening offering, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou, O Lord, art God, for Thou didst turn their hearts back again."

Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

Thereupon Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah

went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched upon the ground, and put his face between his knees.

Thereupon he said to his servant, "Go up, and look toward the sea." And he went up, and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And Elijah said, "Go again, seven times." At the seventh time the servant said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand ariseth from the sea." And Elijah said, "Go up, and say to Ahab, 'Make ready thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain may not stop thee.' "

Now it came to pass in a little while, that the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

—First Kings, Chapter 18.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

NOW Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them."

Thereupon Elijah arose, and fled for his life. When he came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. And, behold, an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat!" And he looked, and, behold, at his head there was a cake baked on the hot stones, and a cruse of water. And he ate and drank, and lay down again.

Then the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat; for the journey is too great for thee." And he arose, and ate and drank, and went on the strength of that meal forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. And he went into a cave, and lodged there.

Thereupon the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire a still small voice.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood at the entrance of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice to him, and said, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" And he said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. The children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to Damascus, and anoint Hazael to be king over Aram. And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy place. And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the

sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him that escapeth the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet will I leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bent to Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."

So Elijah departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat ploughing. And he went over to Elisha, and cast his mantle upon him. Thereupon Elisha left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee." And Elijah said to him, "Go back; for what have I done to thee?"

Thereupon Elisha returned, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people; and they ate. Then he arose, and followed Elijah, and ministered to him.

Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, near the palace of king Ahab. And Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for an herb garden, because it is near my house. I will give thee a better vineyard for it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the value thereof in money." And Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to thee."

So Ahab came to his house sullen and displeased, because of the words which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give

thee the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would not eat bread.

Then Jezebel his wife came to him, and said, "Why is thy spirit so sullen, that thou dost not eat bread?" And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, saying, 'Give me thy vineyard for money, or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it'; and he answered, 'I will not give thee my vineyard.'" And Jezebel said to him, "Dost thou govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let thy heart be merry; I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and nobles that were in Naboth's city, and that dwelt with him. And she wrote in the letters, saying, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. And set two base fellows beside him, and let them bear witness against him, saying, 'Thou didst curse God and the king.' Then carry him out, and stone him, that he die."

So the elders and nobles who dwelt in his city did as was written in the letters which Jezebel had sent to them. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. And the two base fellows came in and sat beside him; and they bore witness against Naboth, in the presence of the people, say-

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"Behold, I will bring evil upon thee."

ing, "Naboth hath cursed God and the king." Then they carried him out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Thereupon they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth hath been stoned, and is dead."

Now when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned, and was dead, she said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money; for Naboth is dead." And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that he arose to go down to Naboth's vineyard, to take possession of it.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who dwelleth in Samaria. Behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he hath gone down to take possession of it. And thou shalt speak to him, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord: Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? Thus saith the Lord: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick thy blood also.' "

Now Ahab said to Elijah, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?" And he answered, "I have found thee; because thou hast given thyself up to do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee; and I will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasa the son of Ahijah. And of Jezebel

also hath the Lord spoken, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the moat of Jezreel.'"

Now when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay down in sackcloth, and went about softly. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before Me? Because he humbleth himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in the days of his son will I bring the evil upon his house."

—First Kings, Chapters 19, 21.

AHAB'S VICTORY

NOW Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his host together; and there were thirty-two kings with him, and horses and chariots. And he went up, and besieged Samaria, and fought against it.

Now he sent messengers into the city, to Ahab king of Israel, saying, "Thus saith Ben-hadad, 'Thy silver and thy gold are mine; also the goodliest of thy wives and thy children are mine.'" And the king of Israel answered and said, "As thou sayest, my lord, O king: I am thine, and all that I have."

Then the messengers came again, and said, "Thus saith Ben-hadad, 'I sent to thee, saying: Thou shalt deliver to me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children; but tomorrow I will send my servants, and they shall search thy house, and the houses of thy servants; and whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall take in their hands, and carry it away.'"

Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the

land, and said, "Mark how this man seeketh mischief; for he sent to me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold, and I denied him not." And the elders and the people said to him, "Do not hearken or consent!"

Thereupon he said to the messengers of Ben-hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that thou didst send for to thy servant at first, I will do; but this thing I may not do.'" So the messengers departed, and brought the message to Ben-hadad.

Then Ben-hadad sent to Ahab, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me!" And the king of Israel answered and said, "Tell him, 'Let not him that girdeth on his armor boast as he that putteth it off!'"

Now when Ben-hadad heard this message, as he and the kings were drinking together, he said to his servants, "Set yourselves in array." And they set themselves in array against the city.

Then a prophet came near to Ahab king of Israel, and said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Hast thou seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into thy hand this day, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord.'" And Ahab said, "By whom?" And he answered, "By the young men of the princes of the provinces." Then Ahab said, "Who shall begin the battle?" And he answered, "Thou."

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Ben-hadad and the kings.

Thereupon Ahab numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he numbered all the people—seven thousand.

The young men of the princes of the provinces went forth first. Now Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk, he and the thirty-two kings that were helping him. And they told Ben-hadad, saying, "Men have come out from Samaria." And he said, "Whether they have come out for peace or for war, seize them alive."

So the young men of the princes of the provinces went out of the city, together with the army which followed them. Now everyone slew his man; and the Arameans fled, and Israel pursued them, and slew them with great slaughter. But Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on a horse.

Then the servants of the king of Aram said to him, "Their God is a God of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we. But let us fight them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.

"Now do this: remove the kings, and put governors in their place; and muster an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot. And we will fight them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they." And the king of Aram hearkened to their voice, and did so.

So it came to pass at the return of the year, that

Ben-hadad mustered the Arameans, and went up to Aphek to fight Israel. And the children of Israel were mustered, and went against them, and encamped before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Arameans filled the country.

Then a man of God came near to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Because the Arameans have said: The Lord is a God of the hills, but he is not a God of the valleys; therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thy hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.'"

So they encamped opposite each other seven days. On the seventh day they joined battle; and the children of Israel slew of the Arameans a hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled into Aphek; and the wall of the city fell upon twenty-seven thousand men that were left.

Now Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city. And his servants said to him, "Behold now, we have heard that the kings of Israel are merciful kings. Let us, we pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes on our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perchance he will save thy life."

So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, "Thy servant Ben-hadad saith, 'I pray thee, let me live.'" And Ahab said, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

Now the men took it for a sign, and said, "Thy brother Ben-hadad!" Then Ahab said, "Go, bring him."

Thereupon Ben-hadad came forth, and Ahab took him up into his chariot. And Ben-hadad said to him, "The cities which my father took from thy father I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thyself in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria." "And I," said Ahab, "will let thee go with this covenant." So Ahab made a covenant with him, and let him go.

— First Kings, Chapter 20.

AHAB DIES IN BATTLE

NOW for three years there was no war between Aram and Israel. In the third year Jehoshaphat king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

Now the king of Israel said to his servants, "Know ye that Ramoth-gilead is ours, and we keep still, and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?" And he said to Jehoshaphat, "Wilt thou go with me to battle against Ramoth-gilead?" And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses."

Then Jehoshaphat said to him, "Inquire, I pray thee, of the word of the Lord today." So the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I forbear?" And they said, "Go up; for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here besides, that we might inquire of

him?" And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is one other man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." Thereupon the king of Israel called an officer, and said, "Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah."

Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made himself horns of iron, and said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'With these shalt thou gore the Arameans, until they be consumed.'" And all the prophets prophesied thus, saying, "Go up against Ramoth-gilead, and prosper; for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

Now the messenger that went to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Behold now, the prophets speak favorably to the king with one mouth. Let thy words, I pray thee, be like their words, and speak thou favorably."

But Micaiah said, "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith to me, that will I speak."

Now when he came to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?" And he answered

him, "Go up, and prosper; for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

Then the king said to him, "How many times shall I adjure thee that thou speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" And Micaiah said, "I saw all Israel scattered upon the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd. And the Lord said, 'These have no master; let them return everyone to his house in peace.' "

Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" And Micaiah said, "Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord.

"I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. And the Lord said, 'Who shall entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said in this manner, and another said in that manner.

"Then a spirit came forth, which stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'Wherewith?' And he said, 'I will go forth, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'Thou shalt entice him, and shalt also prevail. Go forth, and do so.'

"Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all thy prophets; and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee."

"I saw all Israel scattered like sheep."

Thereupon Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way went the spirit of the Lord from me to speak to thee?" And Micaiah said, "Behold, thou shalt see on that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself."

Then the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; and say, 'Thus saith the king: Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with scant bread and with scant water, until I come back in peace.' " And Micaiah said, "If thou indeed return in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me!"

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up against Ramoth-gilead. And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself when I go to battle, but do thou put on thy robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself.

Now the king of Aram had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel." And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel." And they turned aside to fight him; and Jehoshaphat cried out. And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

Now a man drew his bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the lower armor and the breastplate. Thereupon the king said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn about, and carry me out of the host, for I am wounded."

Now the battle was prolonged; but the king remained propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. And the blood ran out of the wound into the bottom of the chariot. At sunset he died. Thereupon a cry went throughout the host, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his country!"

So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried him there. And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken.

So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead. And Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned in peace to Jerusalem.

— First Kings, Chapter 22;
Second Chronicles, Chapters 18, 19.

THE MANTLE OF ELIJAH

NOW Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and was sick. And he sent messengers, saying to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover from this sickness."

Then an angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the Lord: Thou shalt not come down from the bed on which thou hast gone up, but shalt surely die.' " So Elijah departed.

When the messengers returned to Ahaziah, he said to them, "Why have ye returned?" And they said to him, "A man came to meet us, and said to us, 'Return to the king that sent you, and say to him: Thus saith the Lord: Is it because there is no God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore thou shalt not come

down from the bed on which thou hast gone up, but shalt surely die.' "

Then Ahaziah said to them, "What manner of man was he that came up to meet you, and spoke these words to you?" And they answered him, "A hairy man, with a leather girdle about his loins." Then the king said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Thereupon Ahaziah sent to Elijah a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to Elijah; and, behold, Elijah was sitting on the top of the hill. And he said to him, "O man of God, the king hath said, 'Come down.' " And Elijah answered the captain of fifty, saying, "If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty." And fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Then Ahaziah sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty, who said to him, "O man of God, thus saith the king, 'Come down quicky.' " And Elijah answered him, saying, "If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty." And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Then Ahaziah sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty came, and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said to him, "O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the lives of these fifty thy servants, be

precious in thy sight. Behold, fire came down from heaven, and consumed the two former captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in thy sight."

Then the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, "Go down with him: be not afraid!" So Elijah arose, and went down with him to the king. And Elijah said to Ahaziah, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Because thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, therefore thou shalt not come down from the bed on which thou hast gone up, but shalt surely die.' "

So Ahaziah died, according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram his brother reigned in his stead; for Ahaziah had no son.

Now it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me as far as Beth-el." And Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they went down to Beth-el.

Then the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said to him, "Knowest thou that the Lord will take thy master from thee today?" And he answered, "Yea, I know it: hold your peace!" And Elijah said to him, "Elisha, tarry

here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho." And he said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they came to Jericho.

Then the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said to him, "Knowest thou that the Lord will take thy master from thee today?" And he answered, "Yea, I know it: hold your peace!" And Elijah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to the Jordan." And he said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So the two went on.

Now fifty sons of the prophets stood opposite them, afar off; and the two stood by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, so that they were divided hither and thither; and the two went over on dry ground.

When they had gone over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee." And Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." And Elijah said, "Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so; but if not, it shall not be so."

Now it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, a chariot of fire appeared, and horses of fire, which parted them asunder; and

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Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. And Elisha saw it, and cried, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw Elijah no more; and he took hold of his clothes, and tore them in two pieces.

Then he picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of the Jordan. And he took the mantle of Elijah, and smote the waters, and said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And the waters were divided hither and thither, and Elisha went over.

Now when the sons of the prophets saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed down to the ground before him.

Then they said to him, "Behold now, there are with thy servants fifty strong men. Let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master; lest perchance the spirit of the Lord hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley." And he said, "Ye shall not send." But when they urged him, he said, "Send."

Thereupon they sent fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not. When they came back, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go?' "

—Second Kings, Chapters 1, 2.

THE MOABITES ARE DEFEATED

NOW Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made.

Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster; and he rendered as tribute to the king of Israel the wool of a hundred thousand lambs, and of a hundred thousand rams. But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

Then king Jehoram went out of Samaria, and mustered all Israel. And he sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab hath rebelled against me. Wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle?" And Jehoshaphat said, "I will go up; I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses." And he said, "Which way shall we go

up?" And Jehoram answered, "The way of the wilderness of Edom."

So the king of Israel and the king of Judah and the king of Edom set out. And they made a round-about journey of seven days; and there was no water for the host, nor for the animals in their train. Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! the Lord hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab." But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?"

Then one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah." And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah and the king of Edom went down to him.

Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with thee? Go to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I have regard for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. But now bring me a minstrel."

Now it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him. And he said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Ye shall not see wind,

The Israelites smote the Moabites.

neither shall ye see rain. Yet this valley shall be filled with water; and ye, and your army, and your animals shall drink. But this is a slight thing in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hands.'

So it came to pass in the morning, about the time of making the offering, that, behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

Now when the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight them, all that were able to put on armor gathered themselves together, and stationed themselves on the border. And when they rose up early in the morning, the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water at a distance as red as blood.

So they said, "This is blood: the kings have surely fought together, and have smitten one another. Now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them.

— Second Kings, Chapter 3.

ELIJAH'S WORDS COME TRUE

IN the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

Now he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead; and the Arameans wounded Joram. So king Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had given him at Ramoth. And Ahaziah king of Judah went down to see Joram in Jezreel, because he was sick.

Now Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Gird up thy loins, and take this vial of oil in thy hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. And when thou comest thither, seek out Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him rise up from among his brethren, and take him to an inner chamber.

"Then take the vial of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, 'Thus saith the Lord: I have anointed thee king over Israel.' Then open the door, and flee. Tarry not!"

So the prophet went to Ramoth-gilead. When he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting together; and he said, "I have an errand to thee, O captain." And Jehu said, "To which one of us all?" And he said, "To thee, O captain."

Thereupon he went into the house. And he poured the oil on Jehu's head, and said to him, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I have anointed thee king over the people of the Lord, over Israel. And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.' " And he opened the door, and fled.

Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his master. And one of them said to him, "Is all well? Why did this mad fellow come to thee?" And he said to them, "Ye know the man and his talk." And they said, "Tell us, we pray thee." And he said, "Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord: I have anointed thee king over Israel.' "

Thereupon everyone hastened and took his garment, and put it under Jehu on the top of the stairs. And they blew the horn, saying, "Jehu is king!" And Jehu said, "If this be your mind, let no one

escape from the city, to go and tell it in Jezreel."

Then Jehu rode in his chariot to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram.

Now the watchman stood on the tower in Jezreel: and he spied the company of Jehu, and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Send a horseman to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?' "

So a horseman went to meet them, and said, "Thus saith the king, 'Is it peace?' " And Jehu said, "What hast thou to do with peace? Turn behind me!"

Then the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger came to them, but doth not come back."

Thereupon Joram sent out a second horseman, who came to them, and said, "Thus saith the king, 'Is it peace?' " And Jehu answered, "What hast thou to do with peace? Turn behind me!"

Then the watchman reported, saying, "He came to them, but doth not come back. And the driving is like the driving of Jehu; for he driveth furiously."

Then Joram said, "Make ready"; and they made his chariot ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, to meet Jehu; and they found him in the plot of Naboth the Jezreelite.

Now it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And Jehu said, "What

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Jehu lifted his face to the window, and said,
"Who is on my side?"

peace, as long as the witchcrafts of thy mother Jezebel are so many?"

Thereupon Joram turned about, and fled, saying to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!" Then Jehu drew his bow with his full strength, and smote Joram between his arms; and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sank down in his chariot.

Thereupon Jehu said to Bidkar his captain, "Take him up, and cast him into the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember how, when I and thou rode together behind Ahab his father, the Lord pronounced this doom upon him, 'Surely I have seen the blood of Naboth, saith the Lord, and I will requite thee in this plot.' Now therefore cast him into the plot, according to the word of the Lord."

Now when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled. And Jehu pursued him, saying, "Smite him also in the chariot." And they smote him at the ascent of Gur. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there. And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him with his fathers in the city of David.

Now when Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out at the window. As Jehu came in at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, thou murderer of thy master?"

Then Jehu lifted his face to the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And two or three

officers looked out. And he said, "Throw her down!" So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses; and she was trodden under foot.

Now when Jehu came in, he ate and drank. And he said, "Look after this accursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter." So they went to bury her; but they found nothing but her skull, and her feet, and the palms of her hands.

Thereupon they came back, and told him; and he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'In the plot of Jezreel shall the dogs eat Jezebel's flesh; and Jezebel's body shall be as refuse on the ground, so that they shall not be able to say: This is Jezebel.' "

— Second Kings, Chapters 8, 9.

THE OIL THAT FAILED NOT

NOW a certain woman, the wife of one of the sons of the prophets, cried to Elisha the prophet, saying, "Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant feared the Lord. And now the creditor has come to take my two children to be his bondmen."

Then Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?" And she said, "Thy handmaid hath nothing in the house, save a pot of oil."

Thereupon Elisha said, "Go, borrow empty vessels from all thy neighbors; borrow no few. Then go in, shut the door behind thyself and thy sons, and pour the oil into all those vessels; and those that are full thou shalt set aside."

So the woman went away, and did so. Then she shut the door behind herself and her sons. They brought her the vessels, and she poured out the oil. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And

he said to her, "There is not another vessel." Thereupon the oil stopped.

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt; and live thou and thy sons on the rest."

Now there was a famine in the land. The sons of the prophets were sitting with Elisha; and he said to his servant, "Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets." And one of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered therefrom a lapful of wild gourds, and sliced them into the pot of pottage; for they knew not what they were.

So they poured out the pottage for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating thereof, that they cried out, and said, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

Then Elisha said, "Bring meal." And he cast the meal into the pot; and he said, "Pour out for the people, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot.

Now there came a man from Baal-shalishah, who brought the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley bread, and fresh ears of corn. And Elisha said, "Give to the people, that they may eat."

Then his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" And Elisha said, "Give to the

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"Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt."

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people, that they may eat; for thus saith the Lord, 'They shall eat, and shall leave thereof.' " So he set it before them, and they ate, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord.

Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Behold, the place where we dwell is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, we pray thee, and take thence every man a beam, and make a dwelling place for ourselves there." And he answered, "Go."

Then one of them said, "I pray thee, go with thy servants." And he answered, "I will go." So Elisha went with them.

When they came to the Jordan, they cut down wood. Now as one of them was felling a beam, the axe-head fell into the water; and he cried out, and said, "Alas, my master! it was borrowed!" And the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place.

Then Elisha cut down a stick, and cast it in there, and made the axe-head float. And he said, "Take it up." And the man put out his hand, and took it.

Now it happened one day, that Elisha went over to Shunem, where there was a great woman; and she persuaded him to eat bread. And it came to pass, that whenever he passed by, he turned in there to eat bread.

Now the woman said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, that

passeth by continually. I pray thee, let us make a little chamber on the roof; and let us set a bed for him there, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick. And it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in there."

Now it came to pass one day, that Elisha came thither, and turned into the upper chamber, and lay down there. And he said to his servant Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him.

Thereupon Elisha said to Gehazi, "Say to her, 'Behold, thou hast taken all this trouble for us; what can be done for thee? Wouldst thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?' " And she answered, "I dwell among mine own people."

Then Elisha said, "What then can be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "She hath no son, and her husband is old." And Elisha said, "Call her."

So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. And Elisha said, "At this season, next year, thou shalt embrace a son." And she said, "Nay, O man of God, do not deceive thy handmaid."

But a son was indeed born to the woman in the following year at that season, as Elisha had told her.

Now when the child was grown, it came to pass one day, that he went out to his father among the reapers. And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" And his father said to his servant, "Carry

him to his mother." And when the servant had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, when he died.

Then she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called to her husband, and said, "Send me, I pray thee, one of the servants, and one of the asses, that I may hasten to the man of God, and then come back." And her husband said, "Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." And she said, "It will be well!"

Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, "Drive forward! Check not my riding, except I bid thee." So she went, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

Now when the man of God saw her afar off, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Behold, yonder is that Shunammite. Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "It is well."

Now when she came to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to thrust her away; but the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is bitter. And the Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me." Thereupon she said, "Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?' "

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Gird up thy loins, take my staff in thy hand, and go thy way. If thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any man salute thee, answer him not; and lay my staff upon the face of the child." And the mother of the child said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So Elisha arose, and followed her.

Now Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but the child made no sound, nor paid attention. So he went back to meet Elisha, and told him, saying, "The child hath not awakened."

Now when Elisha came into the house, behold, the child was laid out on his bed, dead. So he shut the door of the chamber, and prayed to the Lord. And he lay down upon the child, and put his mouth upon its mouth, and his eyes upon its eyes, and his hands upon its hands, and stretched himself upon it; and the flesh of the child grew warm.

Then he walked to and fro in the house, and went up again, and stretched himself upon the child; and the child sneezed seven times, and opened its eyes.

Thereupon Elisha called Gehazi, and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, Elisha said, "Take up thy son." Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed down to the ground; and she took up her son, and went out.

— Second Kings, Chapters 4, 6.

IN THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN

NOW Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and held in high esteem, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

Now the Arameans had gone out in bands, and had brought a little maiden away captive from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. Now the maiden said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy!"

Then Naaman went in, and told his lord, saying, "Thus and thus said the maiden from the land of Israel." And the king of Aram said, "Go; and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "When this letter hath come to thee, behold, I have sent Naaman my serv-

ant to thee, that thou mayest cure him of his leprosy."

Now it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sendeth to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh an occasion against me."

Now when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Wherefore hast thou torn thy clothes? Let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots, and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times; and thy flesh shall be restored, and thou shalt be clean."

But Naaman was angry, and said, "Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leper. Are not Amanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean?" So he went away in a rage.

Then his servants came near, and spoke to him, saying, "Father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? How

"As the Lord liveth, I will not take any."

much rather then, when he saith to thee, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

So he went down, and dipped in the Jordan seven times, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored, like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Thereupon Naaman returned to the man of God, with all his company, and stood before him. And he said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, save in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, take a present from thy servant."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, I will not take any." And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

Then Naaman said, "If not, let there be given to thy servant, I pray thee, two mules' burden of earth; for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice to other gods, save to the Lord.

"In this thing may the Lord pardon thy servant: when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I prostrate myself in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord pardon thy servant." And Elisha said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed.

Now Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Behold, my master hath spared this Aramean, Naaman, in not accepting that which he brought. As the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and

take something from him." So Gehazi hastened after Naaman.

Now when Naaman saw someone running after him, he alighted from his chariot, and went to meet him; and he said, "Is all well?" And Gehazi answered, "All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, 'Behold, even now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill-country of Ephraim. Give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of clothing.' "

Then Naaman said, "Be content, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bore them before Gehazi. When he came to the hill, Gehazi took them from their hand, and put them away in the house. And he let the men go; and they departed.

Then Gehazi went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "Whence comest thou, Gehazi?" And he said, "Thy servant went nowhere." But Elisha said, "Went not my heart with thee, when the man turned back to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money and garments? Therefore shall the leprosy of Naaman cleave to thee, and to thy descendants forever!" And Gehazi went from his presence a leper, as white as snow.

— Second Kings, Chapter 5.

CONQUERED BY KINDNESS

NOW the king of Aram warred against Israel. And he took counsel with his servants, saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp."

Then Elisha the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that thou pass not this place, for the Arameans are coming down thither." And the king of Israel guarded himself at the place of which the man of God had warned him; not once nor twice.

Now the heart of the king of Aram was sorely troubled because of this; and he called his servants, and said to them, "Will ye not tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "Nay, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy very bed chamber."

Then the king said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and fetch him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." So he sent thither

horses, and chariots, and a great host; and they came by night, and surrounded the city.

Now when the servant of the man of God arose early, and went forth, behold, a host with horses and chariots was round about the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" And he answered, "Fear not; for those that are with us are more than those that are with them."

Then Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see." And the Lord opened the young man's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Now when the host came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "I pray thee, smite this people with blindness." And the Lord smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, neither is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek." Thereupon he led them to Samaria.

Now it came to pass, when they came to Samaria, that Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

When he saw them, the king of Israel said to Elisha, "Shall I smite them, my father, shall I smite

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"The Lord's arrow of victory."

them?" And he answered, "Thou shalt not smite them. Hast thou taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow those whom thou wouldst smite? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master."

So the king prepared a great feast for them. And when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away; and they went to their master. And the bands of Aram came no more into the land of Israel.

Now Elisha fell sick with the sickness whereof he was to die. And Joash king of Israel came down to him, and wept over him, and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel, and its horsemen!"

Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "Take a bow and arrows"; and Joash took a bow and arrows. And Elisha said to him, "Put thy hands upon the bow"; and the king put his hands upon it. And Elisha laid his hands upon the king's hands. And he said, "Open the window eastward"; and the king opened it.

Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And Elisha said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over the Arameans! For thou shalt smite them."

So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites used to invade the land. And it came to pass, as certain Israelites were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band; and they cast

the man into the sepulchre of Elisha. And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood upon his feet.

— Second Kings, Chapters 6, 13.

THE BOY KING

NOW when Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah king of Judah, saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed the royal offspring.

But Jehosheba, Ahaziah's sister, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away with his nurse from among the king's sons that were slain; and they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. He remained hidden in the house of the Lord for six years; and Athaliah reigned over the land.

Now in the seventh year, Jehoiada the priest sent and brought the captains of the royal body-guard into the house of the Lord. And he made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the Lord, and showed them the king's son.

Thereupon he commanded them, saying, "This is the thing that ye shall do. A third part of you, that go on duty on the Sabbath, shall keep watch at the king's house. And the other two parts of you, that go off duty on the Sabbath, shall keep watch around

the king at the house of the Lord. And ye shall surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand; and he that cometh within the ranks, let him be slain."

So the captains did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. They took their men, those that were to go on duty on the Sabbath, with those that were to go off duty, and came to Jehoiada. And the priest delivered to the captains the spears and shields that had been king David's, that were in the house of the Lord. And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house.

Then Jehoiada brought out the king's son, and put the crown upon him; and they made him king, and anointed him. And they clapped their hands, and said, "Long live the king!"

Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came into the house of the Lord. And she looked, and, behold, the king stood on the platform, as was the custom, and the captains by the king; and all the people rejoiced, and blew trumpets.

Then Athaliah tore her clothes, and cried, "Treason, treason!"

Thereupon Jehoiada the priest commanded the officers of the host, saying, "Let her pass between the ranks, and him that followeth her slay with the

Athaliah cried, "Treason, treason!"

sword"; for he said, "Let her not be slain in the house of the Lord."

So they made way for her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance to the king's house, and was slain there.

Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people. And all the people went to the house of Baal, and broke it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

Thereupon Jehoiada, and the captains, and the body-guard, and all the people, brought the king down from the house of the Lord to the king's house. So Joash sat on the throne of the kings, and all the people of the land rejoiced.

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, in the seventh year of Jehu king of Israel; and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. And Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all his days, as Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

Now Joash said to the priests, "All the money from the hallowed things that is brought into the house of the Lord, and all the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the Lord, let the priests take; and they shall repair the house of the Lord."

But it came to pass, that in the twenty-third

year of king Joash the priests had not repaired the house.

Then Joash called Jehoiada, and the other priests, and said to them, "Why do ye not repair the house of the Lord? Now therefore take money no longer from those that bestow it upon you, but deliver it for the repair of the house." So the priests consented not to take money any longer from the people.

Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid thereof, and set it beside the altar; and the priests that served as doorkeepers put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord.

Now it came to pass, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and counted the money. And they gave it into the hands of those that had oversight of the house of the Lord; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders that worked on the house of the Lord, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair it.

But vessels of silver and vessels of gold for the house of the Lord were not made of the money that was brought into the house of the Lord; for they gave it to those that did the work, and repaired therewith the house of the Lord. And they required no accounting of the men, into whose hands they

delivered the money to give to those that did the work; for they dealt faithfully.

So the workmen wrought, and restored the house of the Lord.

— Second Kings, Chapters 11, 12;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 24.

THE RIVAL KINGS MEET IN BATTLE

AT that time Hazael king of Aram went up, and fought against Gath, and captured it; and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Joash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that the kings of Judah had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the Lord, and of the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Aram. Thereupon Hazael departed from Jerusalem.

Now two servants of Joash made a conspiracy, and smote him at Beth-millo. So he died; and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

As soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, Amaziah slew the servants who had slain the king his father. But the children of the murderers he did not put to death, according to that which is written in the book of the Law of Moses, as the Lord commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to

death for the fathers; but a man shall be put to death for his own sin."

Now Amaziah gathered Judah together, three hundred thousand chosen men, able to go forth to war. He also hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel, for one hundred talents of silver.

Thereupon a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the Lord is not with Israel! But if thou wilt go, and engagest never so valiantly in battle, God will cast thee down before the enemy; for God hath power to help, and to cast down."

Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The Lord is able to give thee much more than this." So Amaziah set them apart, to go back home; and they returned home.

Then Amaziah took courage, and led forth his people, and slew ten thousand men of Edom in the Valley of Salt; and he captured Sela.

Then Amaziah sent messengers to Joash king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face."

Thereupon Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give

Joash king of Israel broke down the wall of Jerusalem.

thy daughter to my son for wife.' And the wild beasts that were in Lebanon passed by, and trod down the thistle.

"Thou hast indeed smitten Edom. Will thy heart therefore lift thee up, to glory therein? Remain at home! Why shouldst thou meddle with evil, that thou shouldst fall, thou, and Judah with thee?"

But Amaziah would not listen. So Joash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. And Judah was defeated before Israel; and they fled to their tents.

Now Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits. And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

Now Hazael king of Aram died, and Ben-hadad his son reigned in his stead. And Joash king of Israel took again from the hand of Ben-hadad the cities which Hazael had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash smote him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

—Second Kings, Chapters 12, 13, 14;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 25.

AMOS AT BETH-EL

IN the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria; and he reigned forty-one years. He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the sea of the Arabah, and recovered Damascus and Hamath.

Now Amos, who was a herdsman of Tekoa, came to Beth-el, the king's sanctuary, and said, "Hear this word that the Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up out of the land of Egypt, saying:

"You only have I known of all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will visit all your iniquities upon you.

"Proclaim over the palaces in Ashdod,
And over the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say,

'Assemble upon the mountains of Samaria,
And behold the great confusion within her,
And the oppression in her midst.'

"For they know not how to do right, saith the Lord,
Who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

"They sell the righteous for silver,
And the needy for a pair of shoes,
And trample upon the poor.
They hate him that reproveth in the gate,
And abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God:
An enemy shall surround the land,
And shall cause thy strength to go from thee;
And thy palaces shall be spoiled.

"Hear ye, and testify against the house of Jacob,
Saith the Lord God, the God of hosts.

"For on the day when I visit the transgressions of Israel upon him,
I will also visit them upon the altars of Beth-el;
And the horns of the altar shall be cut off,
And shall fall to the ground.

And I will smite the winter house, together with
the summer house;
And the houses of ivory shall perish,
And the great houses shall have an end, saith the
Lord.

"Come to Beth-el, and transgress,
To Gilgal, and multiply transgression!
Bring your sacrifices in the morning,
And your tithes after three days!
Offer leaven as a thank offering,
And proclaim free-will offerings!

"For so ye love to do, O children of Israel,
Saith the Lord God.

"The virgin of Israel hath fallen,
She shall not rise again!
She is cast down upon her land,
There is none to raise her up!

"For thus saith the Lord to the house of Israel:
Seek ye Me, and live!
But seek not Beth-el,
Nor enter into Gilgal;
For Gilgal shall surely go into captivity,
And Beth-el shall come to nought.

"Seek good, and not evil,

That ye may live.
So will the Lord, the God of hosts,
Be with you, as ye say.

"Hate the evil, and love the good,
And establish justice in the gate.
Perhaps the Lord, the God of hosts,
Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

"I hate, I despise your feasts,
And will take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Yea, though ye offer Me burnt offerings and meal offerings,
I will not accept them;
And the peace offerings of your fat beasts, I will not regard.

"Remove from Me the noise of your songs;
And the melody of your psalteries let Me not hear.
But let justice well up like water,
And righteousness like a mighty stream!

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion,
And to them that are secure on the mountain of Samaria!
That lie upon beds of ivory,
And eat lambs from the flock;
That drink wine in bowls,

Doré

"I will deliver up the city with all that is therein."

And anoint themselves with the finest ointments;
But are not grieved for the hurt of Joseph.

"Therefore they shall go captive at the head of the captives,
And their revelry shall pass away.

"I abhor the pride of Jacob,
And hate his palaces,
Saith the Lord, the God of hosts;
And I will deliver up the city with all that is therein.

"For, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel,
And I will cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus;
And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and your songs into lamentations;
And the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste;
And I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus saith Amos:

" 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
And Israel shall surely be led away captive from
his land.' "

Thereupon Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee to the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and there prophesy. But prophesy no more at Beth-el, for it is the king's sanctuary."

Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah, "I was not a prophet, or a prophet's son; but I was a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees. But the Lord took me from following the flock, and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

"Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord:

" 'Thou sayest: Prophesy not against Israel,
And preach not against the house of Isaac.

" 'Therefore thus saith the Lord:

" 'Thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the
sword,
And thy land shall be divided;
And thou shalt die in an unclean land;
And Israel shall surely be led away captive from
his land.' "

— Second Kings, Chapter 14;
Amos, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

A KING'S DOWNFALL

IN the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Uzziah king of Judah began to reign. He was sixteen years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem.

Uzziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord; and as long as he sought the Lord, the Lord caused him to prosper.

Now Uzziah built Elath, and restored it to Judah. And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities among the Philistines.

So God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal. And the Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah. And his name spread abroad as far as Egypt; for he grew exceedingly strong.

Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and fortified

Rehn

Leprosy broke out on his forehead, in the presence of the priests.

them. He had an army of three hundred and seven thousand and five hundred fighting men, that made war with mighty power, to help him against the enemy. And Uzziah provided them with shields, and spears, and helmets, and coats of mail, and bows, and stones for slinging. And he placed engines on the towers, wherewith to shoot arrows and great stones.

Moreover, Uzziah dug many wells; for he had much cattle. And he had farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in the fruitful fields; for he loved agriculture.

Now when king Uzziah became strong, his heart was lifted up, and he sinned against the Lord his God. For he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

Now Azariah the chief priest, and four-score priests of the Lord, went in after Uzziah. And they opposed him, and said to him, "It is not for thee, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but it is for the priests, the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated, to burn incense. Go forth from the sanctuary, for thou hast sinned."

Then Uzziah became angry; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. Now while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, at the altar of incense. And when Azariah,

and all the priests, looked at him, behold, he was leprous on his forehead.

So they thrust him forth quickly; yea, he himself made haste to go forth, because the Lord had smitten him.

Now king Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death, and dwelt in a house set apart. And Jotham his son was in charge of the king's house, and judged the people of the land.

— Second Kings, Chapter 15;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 26.

A PROPHET WHO TAUGHT FAITH IN GOD

IN the seventeenth year of Pekah king of Israel, Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign; and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord, but walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire, according to the horrible rites of the nations, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.

Now Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war; and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. When it was told to Ahaz, saying, "Aram is allied with Ephraim," his heart trembled, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the forest tremble before the wind.

Then the Lord said to Isaiah the prophet, "Go forth to meet Ahaz, and say to him, 'Keep calm, and be quiet! Fear not, neither let thy heart be faint on account of these two stumps of smoking firebrands,

on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram and Ephraim have made wicked plans against thee, saying: Let us go up against Judah, and overthrow it, and set up a king in its midst: thus saith the Lord God: It shall not succeed, neither shall it come to pass!

" 'The Lord will give you a sign! Behold, a young woman shall have a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God is with us). Before the child shall know how to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land whose two kings thou dost dread shall be forsaken.

" 'For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

" 'In quietness and in confidence
Shall be your strength;
Except ye have faith,
Ye shall not endure.' "

But Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am thy servant and thy son. Come up, and save me from the hand of the king of Aram, and from the hand of the king of Israel, who have risen up against me." And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and among the treasures of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria.

Angelo

The Lord spoke by Isaiah the prophet.

So the king of Assyria hearkened to him, and went up against Damascus, and captured it, and carried its people captive to Kir, and slew Rezin. And he went up against Pekah king of Israel, and captured all the land of Naphtali; and he carried the people captive to Assyria.

Now king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he saw the altar that was at Damascus. And he sent Urijah the priest a model of the altar, and the pattern of its workmanship.

So Urijah built an altar according to all the directions that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus. And when the king returned from Damascus, he drew near the altar, and offered sacrifices thereon.

Now Ahaz closed the doors of the house of the Lord. And he placed altars in every corner of Jerusalem. And in every city of Judah he built high places, to make offerings to other gods.

Now the Lord spoke by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

"Their land is full of idols;
They worship the work of their own hands,
That which their own fingers have made.

"The Lord of hosts hath a day
For all that is proud and lofty,

And for all that is lifted up.
Yea, it shall be brought low.

"On that day men shall throw away
To the moles and to the bats
The idols of silver, and the idols of gold,
Which they made for themselves, to worship.

"The idols shall utterly vanish.
And men shall go into clefts in the rocks,
And into holes in the ground,
From the terror of the Lord,
And from the glory of His majesty.

"O house of Jacob, come ye,
And let us walk
In the light of the Lord."

— Second Kings, Chapter 16;
Isaiah, Chapters 2, 7;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 28.

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL FALLS

IN the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign over Israel in Samaria; and he reigned nine years. Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his servant, and brought him tribute.

Now the king of Assyria found Hoshea guilty of conspiracy; for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year.

So the king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it three years. In the sixth year of Hezekiah king of Judah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, he captured Samaria, and carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and settled them in Halah, and in Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Thereupon the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Avva, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and settled

Israel was carried away captive from its land.

them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria.

Now when they began to dwell there, they did not fear the Lord. Therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations which thou hast settled in Samaria do not know how to serve the God of the land. Therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, the lions are slaying them."

Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Bring back one of the priests whom ye carried away captive from there; and let him teach them to serve the God of the land."

So one of the priests whom they had carried away captive from Samaria came, and taught them to fear the Lord. But every nation made gods of their own, and set them in the temples of the high places. They feared the Lord, and served their own gods also.

So Israel was carried away captive from its own land to Assyria.

Now this came to pass, because the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in accordance with the practices of the nations, whom the Lord had cast out before them.

For the children of Israel had built high places in

all their cities, and had set up pillars and Asherim on every high hill, and under every leafy tree; and they made offerings on all the high places. And they served idols, whereof the Lord had said to them, "Ye shall not do this thing."

Yet the Lord had forewarned Israel by means of His prophets, saying, "Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep My commandments, which I gave your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets." But they would not hearken, and were stiff-necked like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God.

They forsook all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made themselves molten images, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. They caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and gave themselves up to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight. There was none left save the tribe of Judah alone.

— Second Kings, Chapter 17.

THE SHADOW ON THE DIAL

IN the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.

Now Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He removed the high places, and broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for up to that time the children of Israel had made offerings to it. He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah. And the Lord was with him: whithersoever he went, he prospered.

Now in the first year of his reign, in the first month, king Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And the priests went into the house of the Lord to cleanse it; and they brought forth everything unclean that they found in it.

Then they went to king Hezekiah, and said, "We

have cleansed the whole house of the Lord, the altar of burnt offering, with all its vessels, and the table of showbread, with all its vessels. And all the vessels which king Ahaz cast aside, we have restored and sanctified."

Thereupon king Hezekiah arose early, and gathered the princes of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord. And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven he-goats, for a sin offering, to make atonement for all Israel. And all the congregation prostrated themselves; and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded their trumpets. And the congregation brought sacrifices and thank-offerings. And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced.

Now Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, from Beer-sheba to Dan, to come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover. So a great multitude assembled at Jerusalem, to keep the feast of unleavened bread. And they arose, and removed all the altars for incense, and cast them into the brook Kidron.

Thereupon the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness. So there was great joy in Jerusalem; for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel, the like had not been in Jerusalem.

Then the priests arose, and blessed the people.

Rode

The sun went back ten degrees.

And their voice was heard by the Lord, and their prayer came up to heaven, His holy habitation.

Now Hezekiah fell sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah came to him, and said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Set thy house in order, for thou shalt die!' "

Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech Thee, how I have walked before Thee in truth and with my whole heart, and have done what is good in Thy sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Thereupon the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, "Go, and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus saith the Lord, the God of David: I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears. Behold, I will heal thee.

" 'On the third day thou shalt go up to the house of the Lord. And I will add fifteen years to thy life; and I will deliver thee and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. Yea, I will defend this city, for Mine own sake, and for My servant David's sake.'

"Now this shall be the sign from the Lord, that the Lord will do as He hath spoken. Behold, I will cause the shadow on the sun-dial of Ahaz to turn backwards ten degrees." So the sun went back the ten degrees by which it had gone down on the dial.

Thereupon Hezekiah recovered.

Now Hezekiah had very great riches and honor. He provided treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and storehouses for corn, and wine, and oil. He built a pool and an aqueduct, and brought water into the city. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

—Second Kings, Chapters 18, 20;
Isaiah, Chapter 38;
Second Chronicles, Chapters 29, 30, 32.

HEZEKIAH DEFIES THE ASSYRIANS

NOW Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent a letter and a present to king Hezekiah; for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick, and had recovered. And Hezekiah was glad, and showed the messengers his treasure-house: the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious oil, and his armor-house, and all his treasures. There was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah did not show them.

Thereupon Isaiah the prophet came to Hezekiah, and said to him, "What said these men, and whence came they?" And Hezekiah said, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon."

Then Isaiah said, "What have they seen in thy house?" And Hezekiah answered, "All that is in my house have they seen. There is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, days are coming, when all that is in

thy house, and that which thy fathers have stored up to this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.' "

Now Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

So in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah, and captured them. Then Hezekiah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have offended. Withdraw from me, and whatever penalty thou puttest on me I will bear."

Thereupon the king of Assyria demanded from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and among the treasures of the king's house. And he cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the door-posts, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

Now the king of Assyria sent Rab-shakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem with a great army. Thereupon Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the king's household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, came out to him.

Now Rab-shakeh said to them, "Say ye now to Hezekiah, 'Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria: Thinkest thou that a mere word of the lips is counsel and strength for war? In whom dost thou

trust, that thou hast rebelled against me? Behold, thou trustest in this bruised reed, Egypt, which, if a man lean thereon, will enter his hand, and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.

" 'Now therefore, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria. I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. How then canst thou turn aside the least of my master's servants? Yet thou puttest thy trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen!

" 'Have I come up without the Lord against this land, to destroy it? The Lord said to me: Go up against this land, and destroy it.' "

Then Eliakim and Shebna and Joah said to Rab-shakeh, "Speak to thy servants, we pray thee, in in the Aramean language; for we understand it. But speak not to us in the language of the Jews, in the hearing of the people that are on the wall."

But Rab-shakeh said, "Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? Hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall?"

Thereupon Rab-shakeh cried out with a loud voice in the language of the Jews, saying, "Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus saith the king, 'Let not Hezekiah mislead you, for he will not be able to deliver you. Neither let

Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying: The Lord will surely deliver us. This city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. Hearken not to Hezekiah.'

"For thus saith the king of Assyria, 'Make peace with me, and come out to me. And eat ye everyone of his vine, and everyone of his fig tree, and drink ye everyone the water of his cistern, until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

" 'Hath anyone of the gods of the nations delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and of Ivvah? Who are they among all the gods of these countries, that have delivered their country from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand.' "

But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word; for the king's command was, "Answer him not!"

—Second Kings, Chapter 18;
Isaiah, Chapters 36, 39.

They told Hezekiah the words of Rab-shakeh.

HEZEKIAH'S TRIUMPH

THEN Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, came to king Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of Rab-shakeh. And it came to pass, when Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.

Now he sent Eliakim, and Shebna, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet. And they said to him, "Thus saith Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of trouble. Perhaps the Lord thy God will hear the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria, his master, hath sent to taunt the living God, and will rebuke the words which He hath heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that is left.' "

So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

Now Isaiah said to them, "Thus shall ye say to your master, 'Thus saith the Lord: Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the ser-

vants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.' "

Now Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, Thou alone art God of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth.

"Incline Thine ear, O Lord, and hear! Open Thine eyes, O Lord, and see!

"Hear the words of Sennacherib, who hath sent to taunt the living God. Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid all the countries waste, and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they could destroy them.

"Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that Thou alone art the Lord."

Thereupon Isaiah sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I have heard thy prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria.

" 'This is the word that the Lord hath spoken concerning him:

" 'She hath despised thee and laughed thee to scorn,
The virgin daughter of Zion!
She hath shaken her head at thee,

Carey

"Incline Thine ear, O Lord, and hear!"

The daughter of Jerusalem!

" 'Whom hast thou taunted and blasphemed?
Against whom hast thou raised thy voice?
Yea, thou hast lifted up thine eyes on high,
Against the Holy One of Israel!

" 'Because of thy raging against Me,
And because thine arrogance hath reached
Mine ears,
I will put My hook in thy nose,
And My bridle between thy lips,
And I will turn thee back on the way
By which thou camest.

" 'Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come to this city, nor shoot an arrow there, neither shall he throw up a mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city, to save it, for Mine own sake, and for My servant David's sake.' "

Now it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and eighty-five thousand: in the morning, behold, they were all dead.

Thereupon Sennacherib returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping

in the house of Nisroch his god, that his own sons smote him with the sword.

Now Hezekiah slept with his fathers; and all Judah showed him honor at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

— Second Kings, Chapter 19;
Isaiah, Chapter 37;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 32.

A KING WHO WORSHIPPED IDOLS

MANASSEH was twelve years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

Now he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, following the abominations of the nations, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel. He reared altars for Baal, and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.

He also caused his son o pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and practiced soothsaying and sorcery. He wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord.

Now Manasseh set the graven image of Asherah, that he had made, in the house of which the Lord had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will I put My name. And I

will not cause the feet of Israel to wander any more from the land which I gave their fathers; if only they will do according to all that I have commanded them."

But they hearkened not; and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations did, whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel. Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, until he had filled Jerusalem with blood from one end to the other.

Now the Lord spoke through His servants the prophets, saying, "Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations: therefore thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will bring such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

" 'I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

" 'I will cast off the remnant of Mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hands of their enemies. And they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; because they have done what is evil in My sight, and have provoked Me, since the day their fathers came forth from Egypt, to this day.' "

Now Manasseh and his people gave no heed. Therefore the Lord brought against them the cap-

Swingue

The king of Assyria bound Manasseh with fetters.

tains of the host of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, and bound him with fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.

Now when Manasseh was in distress, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. He prayed to God, and God heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem, to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was indeed God.

Thereupon Manasseh removed the strange gods from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built on the mount of the house of the Lord, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. And he rebuilt the altar of the Lord, and offered thereon peace-offerings and offerings of thanksgiving. And he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.

— Second Kings, Chapter 21;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 33.

JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW

JOSIAH was eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

Now while he was still young, Josiah began to seek the God of David. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

Now it came to pass in the eighteenth year of his reign, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe to the house of the Lord, saying, "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, and let him put together all the money which has been brought into the house of the Lord, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people. And let it be given to the workmen, to repair the house of the Lord."

Now Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

Schnorr

When king Josiah heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.

Then Shaphan the scribe brought back word to the king, saying, "Thy servants have delivered all the money that was found in the house of the Lord into the hands of the workmen." And Shaphan told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book." And Shaphan read it to the king.

Now it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

Thereupon the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, "Go ye, inquire of the Lord for me, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that hath been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened to the words of this book."

So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah, went to Huldah the prophetess, who dwelt in Jerusalem; and they conversed with her.

Thereupon Huldah the prophetess said to them, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Say ye to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord: Behold I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, yea, all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read; because

they have forsaken Me, and have made offerings to other gods.

" 'Moreover, ye shall say to him: Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel: Because thy heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before the Lord, and hast torn thy clothes, and wept before Me, behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers in peace. And thine eyes shall not look upon all the evil which I will bring upon this place.' "

So they brought back word to the king.

— Second Kings, Chapter 22;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 34.

THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH RETURN TO GOD

THEN the king gathered together all the elders of Judah. And the king, and the men of Judah, and the priests, and the prophets, went up to the house of the Lord.

Now the king read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord. And the king made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. And all the people accepted the covenant.

Thereupon the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second rank, and the doorkeepers, to bring forth from the temple of the Lord all the vessels that had been made for Baal, and for the Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burnt them outside of Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron.

Then he removed the idolatrous priests, whom the

kings of Judah had appointed to make offerings on the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem, those also that made offerings to Baal, and to the sun, and to the moon, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought forth the Asherah from the house of the Lord, and burnt it at the brook Kidron, outside of Jerusalem.

Thereupon he defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beer-sheba. And he defiled Topheth, in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that no man might cause his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance of the house of the Lord; and he burnt the chariots of the sun. And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of king Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, the king broke down.

King Josiah also defiled the high places that Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon. And he broke the pillars in pieces, and cut down the Asherim.

Moreover, king Josiah broke down the altar in Beth-el, and the high place which Jeroboam the son

Peronard

Such a Passover was not held before.

of Nebat had made, and burnt the Asherah. He also removed the high places that were in Samaria.

So he did in the cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali. He broke down the altars, and broke the Asherim and the graven images in pieces, and hewed down all the sun-images throughout all the land of Israel. Thereupon he returned to Jerusalem.

Now the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this book of the covenant." So in the eighteenth year of king Josiah the Passover was held in Jerusalem. Such a Passover was not held in the days of the judges that judged Israel, or in the days of the kings of Israel, or of the kings of Judah.

So there was no king like Josiah before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, in accordance with all the Law of Moses; neither after him did any arise like him.

Now Pharaoh-necoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria at the river Euphrates. Thereupon Josiah went forth against Pharaoh-necoh in the valley of Megiddo; and Pharaoh-necoh slew him.

Now Josiah's servants brought him back dead in a chariot from Megiddo to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. Then the people of the

land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

— Second Kings, Chapter 23;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 34.

A PROPHET OF DOOM

JEHOAHAZ was twenty-three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. Then Pharaoh-necoh put him in chains at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and Pharaoh-necoh laid a fine on the land of a hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

Now Pharaoh-necoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And he brought Jehoahaz to Egypt; and Jehoahaz died there.

So Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh-necoh. He exacted it from the people of the land, to give it to Pharaoh-necoh.

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he rebelled against him.

But the king of Egypt did not come forth any more

from his land; for the king of Babylon had taken all that pertained to the king of Egypt, from the Brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates.

Now in the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to the people of all the cities of Judah, who come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak to them. Omit not a word! It may be that they will hearken, and turn everyone from his evil way, that I may repent of the evil which I intend to do to them, because of their evil deeds.

" 'Thou shalt say to them: Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. If ye thoroughly execute justice between men; if ye do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood, and do not follow other gods to your own hurt: then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever.

" 'Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and swear falsely, and make offerings to Baal, and follow other gods, and then come and stand before Me in this house, and say, We are delivered, that ye may do all these

"I will make this house like Shiloh."

abominations? Has this house become a den of robbers in your eyes?

" 'Thus saith the Lord: If ye will not hearken to Me, to walk in My Law, which I have set before you, to hearken to the words of My servants the prophets, whom I sent to you: then will I make this house like Shiloh, and this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.' "

Now the priests and the prophets and the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. And it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak, that the priests and the prophets and the people took hold of him, saying, "Thou shalt surely die! Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?"

So all the people gathered together against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

Now when the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord; and they sat at the entrance of the new gate of the house of the Lord.

Then the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and to the people, saying, "This man deserveth to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard."

"This man doth not deserve to die."

Thereupon Jeremiah spoke to the princes and to the people, saying, "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all that ye have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and hearken to the voice of the Lord your God, that the Lord may repent of the evil that He hath pronouncd against you.

"But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as is good and right in your sight! Only know ye for certain that, if ye put me to death, ye will bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof. For in truth the Lord hath sent me to you, to speak all these words."

Then the princes and the people said to the priests and to the prophets, "This man doth not deserve to die; for he hath spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God."

Thereupon certain elders of the land arose, and spoke to the assembly of the people, saying, "Micah the Morashtite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts:

" 'Zion shall be ploughed like a field,
And Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
And the temple mount like wooded heights.'

"Did king Hezekiah and the people of Judah put

him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord, and entreat His favor, so that the Lord repented of the evil which He had pronounced against them?"

Now Ahikam the son of Shaphan took Jeremiah's part, that they might not deliver him into the hands of the people to put him to death.

— Second Kings, Chapters 23, 24;
Jeremiah, Chapters 7, 26.

JEREMIAH'S SCROLL

NOW the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying:

"Woe to him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness,
And his chambers by injustice;
That useth his neighbor's labor without wages,
And doth not give him his hire.

"That saith, 'I will build me a great house
With spacious chambers,
Ceiled with cedar,
And painted with vermilion!'

"Shalt thou reign,
Because thou strivest to excel in cedar?
Did not thy father do justice and righteousness?
He judged the cause of the poor and needy;
Then it was well with him.
Is not this to know Me? saith the Lord.

"But thine eyes and thy heart
Are bent on nothing but thine own greed,
And on shedding innocent blood,
And on oppression and violence.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

"They shall not lament for him, saying,
'Alas, Lord!' or 'Alas for his glory!'
He shall be buried as an ass is buried,
Cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem!"

Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Take a scroll, and write therein all the words that I have spoken to thee, from the days of Josiah, to this day. It may be that the house of Judah will turn from their evil ways, that I may forgive their wickedness."

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote upon a scroll, from Jeremiah's lips, all the words which the Lord had spoken to him.

Now Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am unable to go to the house of the Lord. Therefore go thou, and read, from the scroll which thou hast written from my lips, the words of the Lord, in the hearing of the people in the house of the Lord. It may be that they will present their supplication

before the Lord, and will turn from their evil ways; for great is the anger that the Lord hath declared against this people."

Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoaikim king of Judah, in the ninth month, that a fast of the Lord was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem, and for all the people that came to Jerusalem from the cities of Judah. So Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the Lord, in the hearing of all the people.

Now when Micaiah the son of Gemariah had heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, he went down to the scribe's chamber in the king's house; and, behold, Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes, were sitting there.

Now Micaiah told the princes all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people. Thereupon they sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah to Baruch, saying, "Take the scroll from which thou hast read in the hearing of the people, and come."

So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll, and came to them. And they said to him, "Sit down, and read it in our hearing." So Baruch read it.

Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the

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The king cast it into the fire.

words, that they turned to one another in fear. And they said to Baruch, "We will surely tell the king!"

Thereupon they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us now: How didst thou write all these words?" And Baruch answered, "Jeremiah dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."

Then the princes said to Baruch, "Go, hide, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye are."

Then the princes came to the king; but they had deposited the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe. And they repeated all the words of the scroll in the hearing of the king.

Thereupon the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll. And Jehudi brought it from the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and read it in the hearing of the king, and in the hearing of all the princes that stood beside the king.

Now the king was sitting in the winter house, with a burning brazier before him. And it came to pass, as often as Jehudi read three or four columns, that the king would cut the piece off with a pen knife, and cast it into the fire that was in the brazier, until the whole scroll was consumed.

Now the king and his servants that heard all these words were not afraid, neither did they tear their clothes. Moreover, Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had entreated the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them.

Then the king commanded them to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet; but the Lord hid them.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, after the king had burnt the scroll, saying, "Take another scroll, and write therein all the words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah hath burnt. And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah thou shalt say, 'Thus saith the Lord: Thou hast burnt this scroll, saying: Why hast thou written therein, saying: The king of Babylon shall surely come and destroy this land, and shall bring man and beast there to an end?

" 'Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have no one to sit upon the throne of David; and his dead body shall lie exposed to the heat by day, and to the frost by night. And I will punish him and his servants; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them.' "

So Jeremiah took another scroll, and gave it to Baruch, who wrote therein, from the lips of Jeremiah, all the words of the scroll which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burnt.

— Jeremiah, Chapters 22, 36.

JEREMIAH'S WARNING

WHEN Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

Now the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar came to the city, while his servants were besieging it. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah went forth to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers.

So the king of Babylon took Jehoiachin prisoner, and carried the king, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, and all the craftsmen, into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. None remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

Moreover, Nebuchadnezzar carried away all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in

The king of Babylon carried them into captivity.

the temple of the Lord. And he made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in Jehoiachin's stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah. And he made a covenant with Zedekiah, and bound him with an oath.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive to Babylon:

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all whom I have caused to be carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build ye houses, and dwell in them, and plant gardens, and eat the fruit thereof. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."

Now it came to pass, in the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Zedekiah, saying, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live! Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the Lord hath spoken concerning the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?

"Hearken not to the words of the prophets that speak to you, saying, 'Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon'; for they prophesy falsely in My name."

Jeremiah also spoke to the priests and to the people, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy to you, saying: Behold, the vessels of the house of the Lord shall soon be brought back from Babylon; for they prophesy falsely to you.

" 'Hearken not to them! Serve the king of Babylon, and live! Why should this city become desolate?' "

Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon, who had made him swear by God. He sent ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people.

Thereupon the word of the Lord came to the prophet Ezekiel, saying, "Shall he prosper, shall he escape that doeth such things? Shall he break the covenant, and escape? As I live, saith the Lord God, in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he broke, he shall die, in the midst of Babylon!"

Now it came to pass, in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, with all his army, and encamped against Jerusalem.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, say-

ing, "Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and say to him, 'Thus saith the Lord: Behold, I will deliver this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it. And thou shalt not escape from his hand, but shalt surely be captured, and shalt be delivered into his hand; and thou shalt go to Babylon.' "

Now when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem, king Zedekiah made a covenant with all the people, that every man should let his Hebrew man-servant, and his Hebrew maid-servant, go free. And the people hearkened, and let them go free.

Then Pharaoh's army came forth from Egypt; and when the Chaldeans that were besieging Jerusalem heard the tidings, they retreated from Jerusalem. Thereupon the people caused the servants whom they had set free, to return, and made them serve again.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I made a covenant with your fathers on the day that I brought them forth from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, saying: Every Hebrew that hath been sold to thee, and hath served thee six years, thou shalt set free; but your fathers did not hearken to Me.

" 'Now ye had turned about, and had done what

is right in My sight, in proclaiming liberty to your brethren; and ye had made a covenant before Me in My house. But ye turned about again, and profaned My name, and caused the servants whom ye had set free, to return, and made them serve again.

" 'Therefore thus saith the Lord: Ye have not hearkened to Me, to proclaim liberty to your brethren. Behold, I proclaim liberty for you to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine; and I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

" 'I will deliver those that have transgressed My covenant, the princes of Judah, and the priests, and the people, into the hands of their enemies; and their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. And I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, that hath departed from you.

" 'Behold, Pharaoh's army, which hath come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt. And the Chaldeans shall come back, and fight against this city; and they shall capture it, and burn it. And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant.' "

— Second Kings, Chapter 24;
Jeremiah, Chapters 27, 29, 34, 37;
Ezekiel, Chapter 17;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 36.

They let Jeremiah down with cords, into the pit.

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH FALLS

NOW the princes heard the words that Jeremiah spoke to all the people, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, 'He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live. Thus saith the Lord: This city shall surely be given into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it.' "

Thereupon the princes said to king Zedekiah, "We pray thee, let this man be put to death; for he weakeneth the hands of the men of war, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but their harm."

Then Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can do nothing against you."

So they took Jeremiah, and cast him into the pit of Malchiah the king's son. Now they let Jeremiah down with cords; and there was no water in the pit, only mud. So Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Now when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, who belonged to the king's household, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the pit, he spoke to the king, saying, "My lord king, these men have done wrong in casting Jeremiah the prophet into the pit. He is likely to die there from hunger."

Then the king commanded Ebed-melech, saying, "Take men with you, and bring Jeremiah up from the pit, before he dies." So Ebed-melech took men with him, and brought rags, and let them down to Jeremiah by cords into the pit. And he said to Jeremiah, "Put these rags under thine armpits, beneath the cords"; and Jeremiah did so.

So they drew Jeremiah up by the cords, and brought him out of the pit. And Jeremiah was imprisoned in the house of the king of Judah.

Now king Zedekiah sent, and had Jeremiah the prophet brought to him at the third entrance of the house of the Lord. And the king said to Jeremiah, "I would ask thee something; hide nothing from me."

Then Jeremiah said, "If I declare it to thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? And if I give thee counsel, thou wilt not hearken to me!"

But the king swore secretly to Jeremiah, saying, "As the Lord liveth, I will not put thee to death, neither will I deliver thee into the hands of these men that seek thy life!"

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'If thou wilt go forth to the princes of the king of Babylon, then thou shalt live, thou, and thy household, and this city shall not be burnt. But if thou wilt not go forth to them, then shall this city be given into the hands of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it; and thou shalt not escape from their hands.' "

Thereupon Zedekiah said, "I am afraid of the Jews that have deserted to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into the hands of the Chaldeans." But Jeremiah said, "They shall not deliver thee to the Chaldeans. Hearken, I beseech thee, to the voice of the Lord. So shall it be well with thee, and thou shalt live."

Then the king said to Jeremiah, "Let no man know of these words, and thou shalt not die." So Jeremiah remained in prison until the day that Jerusalem was captured.

Now Jerusalem was besieged until the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, when the famine was severe in the city, so that there was no bread for the people, the city was taken by storm.

Thereupon Zedekiah king of Judah and all the men of war fled by night, by way of the king's garden, through the gate between the two walls, and

proceeded by way of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook him on the plains of Jericho; and his whole army was scattered. So they captured Zedekiah, and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah; and Nebuchadnezzar passed judgment upon him.

Now the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. He also slew all the princes of Judah. And he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with fetters, and carried him off to Babylon, and kept him in prison until the day of his death.

Now in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem.

Thereupon the army of the Chaldeans broke down the walls of Jerusalem round about. And the pillars of brass that were in the house of the Lord, and the brazen laver, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried the brass thereof to Babylon. And all the vessels of brass, and of gold, and of silver, the captain of the guard took away.

Now the people that were left in the city the captain of the guard carried away captive to Babylon. But some of the poorest of the land he left to be vinedressers and farmers. So Judah was carried away captive from its land.

Goeree

Nebuzaradan burnt the house of the Lord, and all the houses of Jerusalem.

Now as for the people that were left in the land of Judah, the king of Babylon made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor over them. And the king of Babylon charged Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard concerning Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Look well to him, and do him no harm; but do to him as he shall tell thee."

So Nebuzaradan sent, and took Jeremiah out of prison, and committed him to Gedaliah. So Jeremiah dwelt among the people.

Now when the captains of the troops heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to him at Mizpah, together with their men. And Gedaliah said to them, "Fear not to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, of the royal family, came, with ten men, and slew Gedaliah, together with the Jews and the Chaldeans that were with him at Mizpah. Then all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the troops, arose, and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Behold, days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on

the day that I took them by the hand, to bring them forth from the land of Egypt.

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, saith the Lord. I will write My law in their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall no longer teach their neighbors, and their brethren, saying, 'Know the Lord'; for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

"For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more. And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will have compassion on them."

— Second Kings, Chapter 25;
Jeremiah, Chapters 38, 39, 52.

PRONOUNCING LIST

ā—pāy; ă—băd; ä—ärt; ē—mē; ĕ—bĕd; ē—fērn; ī—īce; ĭ—tĭn; ō—gō; ŏ—nŏt; ū—rūle; ŭ—rŭn.

Aaron, ā′ rŏn [bĕth-mā′ ă-käh
Abel-beth-maacah, ā″ bĕl-
Abel-meholah, ā″ bĕl-mĕ-hō′-
Abijam, ă-bī′ jăm [läh
Achbor, ăk′ bŏr
Adoram, ă-dō′ răm
Ahab, ā′ hăb
Ahaz, ā′ hăz
Ahaziah, ā″ hă-zī′ äh
Ahijah, ă-hī′ jäh
Ahikam, ă-hī′ kăm
Amanah, ă-mā′ näh
Amaziah, ăm″ ă-zī′ äh
Ammon, ăm′ mŏn
Ammonite, ăm′ mŏn-īt
Amos, ā′ mŏs
Amoz, ā′ mŏz
Aphek, ā′ fĕk
Arabah, ăr′ ă-bäh
Arabian, ă-rā′ bĭ-ăn
Aram, ā′ răm
Aramean, ăr″ ă-mē′ ăn
Arpad, är′ păd
Asa, ā′ să
Asaiah, ă-sā′ yäh
Asaph, ā′ săf
Ashdod, ăsh′ dŏd
Asherah, ă-shē′ räh
Asherim, ă-shē′ rĭm
Ashtoreth, ăsh-tō′ rĕth
Assyria, ăs-sĭr′ ĭ-ă
Assyrian, ăs-sĭr′ ĭ-ăn
Athaliah, ăth″ ă-lī′ äh
Avva, ăv′ vă
Azariah, ăz″ ă-rī′ äh
Baal, bā′ ăl
Baalim, bā′ ă-lĭm [shäh
Baal-shalishah, bā″ ăl-shă-lī′-
Baal-zebub, bā″ ăl-zē′ bŭb
Baasa, bā′ ă-să
Babylon, băb′ ĭ-lŏn
Baladan, băl′ ă-dăn
Baruch, bā′ rŭk
Beer-sheba, bē″ ĕr-shē′ bă
Ben-hadad, bĕn″-hā′ dăd
Benjamin, bĕn′ jă-mĭn
Beth-el, bĕth′-ĕl
Beth-millo, bĕth″-mĭl′ lō
Beth-shemesh, bĕth″-shĕm′ ĕsh
Bidkar, bĭd′ kär

Carmel, kär′ měl
Chaldean, kăl-dē′ ăn
Chemosh, kē′ mŏsh
Chenaanah, kĕ-nā′ ă-näh
Cherith, kē′ rĭth
Chinneroth, kĭn′ ĕ-rŏth
Cuthah, kū′ thäh
Damascus, dă-măs′ kŭs
Delaiah, dĕ-lā′ yäh
Dothan, dō′ thăn
Ebed-melech, ē′ bĕd-mē′ lĕk
Edom, ē′ dŏm
Egypt, ē′ jĭpt
Ekron, ĕk′ rŏn
Elah, ē′ läh
Elath, ē′ lăth
Eliakim, ē-lī′ ă-kĭm
Elijah, ē-lī′ jäh
Elisha, ē-lī′ shă
Elishama, ĭ-lĭsh′ ă-mă
Elnathan, ĕl-nā′ thăn
Ephraim, ē′ frā-ĭm
Ephraimite, ē′ frā-ĭm-īt
Ethbaal, ĕth-bā′ ăl
Ethiopian, ē″ thĭ-ō′ pĭ-ăn
Euphrates, yū-frā′ tēz
Gath, găth
Geba, gē′ bă
Gedaliah, gĕd-ă-lī′ äh
Gehazi, gĕ-hā′ zī
Gemariah, gĕm″ ă-rī′ äh
Gerar, gē′ rär
Gilgal, gĭl′ găl
Gozan, gō′ zăn
Gur, gŭr
Gur-baal, gŭr″-bā′ ăl
Habor, hā′ bŏr
Halah, hā′ läh
Hamath, hā′ măth
Hananiah, hăn-ă-nī′ äh
Hazael, hā′ ză-ĕl
Hena, hē′ nă
Hezekiah, hĕz″ ĕ-kī′ äh
Hilkiah, hĭl-kī′ äh
Hinnom, hĭn′ nŏm
Hittite, hĭt′ īt
Horeb, hō′ rĕb
Hoshea, hō-shē′ äh
Huldah, hŭl′ däh
Ijon, ī′ jŏn
Imlah, ĭm′ läh
Immanuel, ĭm-măn′ ū-ĕl
Isaiah, ī-zā′ yäh
Ishmael, ĭsh′ mă-ĕl
Israel, ĭz′ rā-ĕl
Israelite, ĭz′ rā-ĕl-īt
Ivvah, ĭv′ väh
Jabneh, jăb′ nĕh
Jehoahaz, jĕ-hō′ ă-hăz
Jehoiachin, jĕ-hoy′ ă-kĭn
Jehoiada, jĕ-hoy′ ă-dă
Jehoiakim, jĕ-hoy′ ă-kĭm
Jehoram, jĕ-hō′ răm
Jehoshaphat, jĕ-hŏsh′ ă-făt
Jehosheba, jĕ-hŏsh′ ĕ-bă
Jehu, jē′ hū
Jehudi, jĕ′ hū-dī
Jeremiah, jĕr″ ĕ-mī′ äh
Jericho, jĕr′ ĭ-kō
Jeroboam, jĕr″ ŏ-bō′ ăm

Jerusalem, jĕ-rū′ să-lĕm
Jesse, jĕs′ ĭ
Jezebel, jĕz′ ĕ-bĕl
Jezreel, jĕz′ rē-ĕl
Jezreelite, jĕz′ rē-ĕl-īt
Joah, jō′ äh
Joash, jō′ ăsh
Joram, jō′ răm
Jordan, jōr′ dăn
Josiah, jō-sī′ äh
Jotham, jō′ thăm
Judah, jū′ däh
Kidron, kĭd′ rŏn
Kir, kĭr
Kishon, kī′ shŏn
Lachish, lā′ kĭsh
Lebanon, lĕb′ ă-nŏn
Levite, lē′ vīt
Maachah, mā′ ă-käh
Manasseh, mă-năs′ sĕh
Mareshah, mă-rē′ shäh
Mattan, măt′ tăn
Mattaniah, măt″ tă-nī′ äh
Medes, mēdz
Megiddo, mĕ-gĭd′ dō
Merodach-baladan, mĕ-rō″-
[dăk-băl′ ă-dăn
Mesha, mē′ shă
Micah, mī′ käh
Micaiah, mī-kā′ yäh
Milcom, mĭl′ kŏm
Millo, mĭl′ lō
Mizpah, mĭz′ päh
Moab, mō′ ăb
Moabite, mō′ ăb-īt
Molech, mō′ lĕk
Morashtite, mō-răsh′ tīt
Naaman, nā′ ă-măn
Naboth, nā′ bŏth
Naphtali, năf′ tă-lī
Nebat, nē′ băt [nĕz′ zär
Nebuchadnezzar, nĕb″ ū-kăd-
Nebuzaradan, nĕb″ ū-zär′ ă-dăn
Neriah, nĕ-rī′ äh
Nethaniah, nĕth″ ă-nī′ äh
Nimshi, nĭm′ shī
Nineveh, nĭn′ ĕ-vĕh
Nisroch, nĭs′ rŏk
Obadiah, ō″ bă-dī′ äh
Oded, ō′ dĕd
Omri, ŏm′ rĭ
Pekah, pē′ käh
Pharaoh, fā′ rō
Pharaoh-necoh, fā″ rō-nē′ kō
Pharpar, fär′ pär
Philistine, fĭ-lĭs′ tĭn
plummet, plŭm′ mĕt
psalteries, sŏl′ tĕr-ēz
Rab-shakeh, răb″-shā′ kĕh
Ramah, rā′ mäh
Ramoth, rā′ mŏth [ĭ-ăd
Ramoth-gilead, rā″ mŏth-gĭl′-
Rehoboam, rē″ hŏ-bō′ ăm
Remaliah, rĕm″ ă-lī′ äh
Rezin, rē′ zĭn
Riblah, rĭb′ läh
Rimmon, rĭm′ mŏn
Samaria, să-mā′ rĭ-ă
scorpion, skōr′ pĭ-ŏn
Sela, sē′ lă

Sennacherib, sĕn-năk′ĕ-rĭb
Sepharvaim, sĕf″ är-vā′ ĭm
sepulchre, sĕp′ ŭl-kẽr
Shalmaneser, shăl″ măn-ē′ zẽr
Shaphan, shā′ făn
Shaphat, shā′ făt
Shebna, shĕb′ nă
Shechem, shē′ kĕm
Shemaiah, shĕ-mā′ yäh
Shemer, shē′ mẽr
Shiloh, shī′ lōh
Shilonite, shī′ lŏ-nīt
Shishak, shī′ shăk
Shunammite, shū′ năm-īt
Shunem, shū′ nĕm
Sidon, sī′ dŏn
Simeon, sĭm′ ĭ-ŏn
So, sō
Tekoa, tĕ-kō′ ă
Tiglath-pileser, tĭg″ lăth-pĭ-lē′- [zẽr
Tirzah, tĭr′ zäh
Tishbite, tĭsh′ bīt
tithes, tīthz
Topheth, tō′ fĕth
Urijah, yū-rī′ jäh
Uzziah, ŭz-zī′ äh
vermilion, vẽr-mĭl′ yŏn
Zarephath zăr′ ĕ-făth
Zedekiah, zĕd″ ĕ-kī′ äh
Zephath, zē′ făth
Zerah, zē′ räh
Zeredah, zẽr′ ĕ-däh
Zidonian, zī-dō′ nĭ-ăn
Zion, zī′ ŏn

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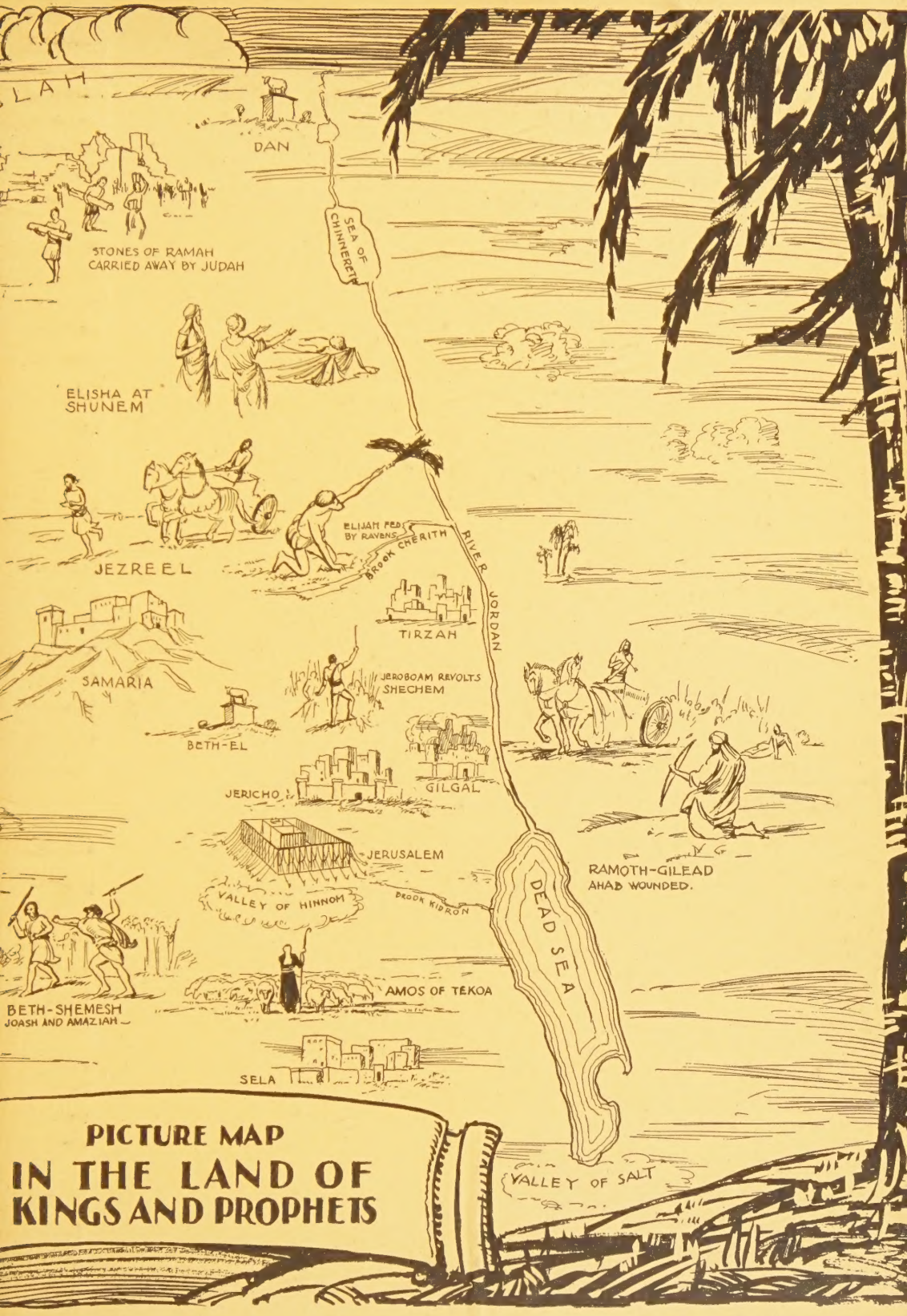
ELIJAH AT GATES OF ZAREPHATH
MEGIDDO
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
JABNEH
DOTHAN
HOST LEAD AWAY BY ELISHA
ASHDOD
GATH
VALLEY OF ZEPHATH
ASA PRAYS BEFORE HIS ARMIES
EGYPT
EDOM
T. SPECTOR 1929



PICTURE MAP
IN THE LAND OF KINGS AND PROPHETS

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